

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Brickendon Liberty Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 16 September 2013, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

*Cllr Mrs L Ashley

*Cllr Mrs M Laybourn

*Cllr Mrs A Downes (Vice Chairman)

*Cllr J C Lambie

*Cllr L Kotting (Chairman)

* denotes present.

In attendance: 6 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs J Taylor (HCC).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 July 2013 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Overgrown hedges

To note that a response had been received from the County Council stating that most of the road hedge required cutting back. The matter would be actioned and the Parish Council would be informed of progress.

5. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Village Fete

Congratulations were extended to the Fete Committee for all its efforts in making the day a memorable occasion.

(ii) Excessive volume and speed of traffic

Broxbourne Woods Society had expressed its growing concerns at the increase in the speed and the amount of traffic using White Stubbs and Pembridge Lane which was making it a hazard to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Clearly it was felt that the roads were not suitable for the size of lorries using the roads, although it was accepted that there were no enforceable restrictions on HGVs using the road network.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had expressed its concern regarding the excessive speeds in the parish and Cllr Mrs Laybourn was pursuing the possibility of installing activated speed signs. A letter would be forwarded to the County Council expressing the concerns raised with a copy being forwarded to the Police Commissioner.

(iii) Paradise Wildlife Park

Lynn Whitnall gave members an update on the changes to the family structure regarding the future administration of the Trust with her father stepping aside from active participation in favour of her taking a more active role.

Further tree planting was scheduled to take place during this year with surfacing and landscaping work scheduled for the car park. East Herts had indicated that it was happy with the proposals.

Cllr Lambie asked whether consideration could be given to creating a track along the verge in Pembridge Lane. Lynn confirmed that she would give serious consideration to the request.

Members were given details of proposals for the future development of Paradise Park, which included provision of a new entrance and souvenir shop, extension to the children's play area and the upgrading of the catering facility area. Prior to a formal application being submitted, members were invited to examine the plans in order to give a feedback on their views.

With regard to any traffic calming measures, Lynn stated that she would be happy to work with the Parish Council.

On the question of visitor numbers, members were informed that trading figures for the current year were 12% over and above that of the previous year.

6. PLANNING

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached document (see Appendix A) be noted and the decisions taken be ratified.

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

Mrs Lambie had written informing the Parish Council that no report would be forthcoming from the Fanshaws Room Committee as the last meeting had merely dealt with the arrangements for the fete and the handing over of the Treasurer's role from Bryan Parks to Robert Williams.

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on 25 September 2013.

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Vehicular Activated Signs

Cllr Mrs Laybourn had been in contact with Paul Patmore, Highway Locality Officer, Hertfordshire County Council, with regard to the provision of vehicular activated signs. However, there were a number of criteria to be met, one of which was that at least three personal injury collisions had to have been recorded that were relevant to the location of the proposed activated signs within the last three years. The general feeling was that the criteria would not be met.

Cllr Lambie stated that a more realistic requirement would be for the provision of an advisory sign to be powered by solar energy in preference to a more permanent statutory sign.

Members were reminded that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, as part of the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, would be addressing signage and speeding as one of its topics. Therefore, in view of this fact, it was suggested that action be deferred until the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan was known. It was felt that this was the way forward, to which members concurred.

(ii) Flooding at Brickendonbury

Members were informed that the problems of flooding at Brickendonbury had been addressed by digging out the ditch.

(iii) Flooding problem – Pembridge Lane

The problem of flooding had not been resolved and water was still being pumped out from the cellar of number 5 onto the public highway, which in turn flooded a property downstream.

It was mentioned that the property in question was up for sale and the Clerk was requested to forward to the occupier a letter setting out the concerns of the Parish Council.

(iv) Winter self-help scheme - 2014

Members were informed that the County Council, following the success of previous operations, was continuing with the facility of providing Parish and Town Councils with one-off deliveries of salt. Parish Councils could apply for up to 850kg or up to 34 individual kg bags. Applications should be made to the County Council.

Cllr Mrs Downes stated that on behalf of Wormley West End she had already made an application.

9. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Lambie informed members that there would be a slight delay in commencing work on providing the new path to the station. The Rights of Way Department (HCC) might have to remove some of the trees and to shore up part of the bank. As a precaution a planning application had been submitted to East Herts Council to ascertain whether the work proposed was permitted development.

10. VILLAGE GREEN MATTERS

(i) Problem of moles on the Village Green

The Chairman referred to the problem of moles on the Village Green and he stated that a quotation in the sum of £56 had been received from a contractor to eradicate the problem.

Members agreed for the work to be undertaken.

(ii) Replacement Jubilee tree

The Chairman stated that the Jubilee oak tree, which had been planted last year, had since died and was in need of replacement. Members agreed that the Chairman be authorised to arrange for the purchase and planting of a new tree. A suggestion was made that an initial approach be made to Countryside Management Services who might be in a position to offer a replacement tree.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/POLICE REPORT/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr Dennis Downes gave details of the crime statistics for the period 24 July 2013 to 16 September 2013, which he had received from PCSO Neal Major and PC Dean Watson. The contents were as follows:

- 17/07/2013. A plastic drinking bottle thrown from a vehicle at a cyclist on White Stubbs Lane.
- 22/08/2013. A strange attempted theft from a motor vehicle in one of the wood's car parks. The door of a secure vehicle had been opened and then a coat had been taken from behind the driver's seat and replaced on the front seat (nothing stolen).
- 02/09/2013. Car park stabilisation mats had been stolen from resurfacing engineers at the east car park, Bencroft Woods.
- 05/09/2013. Common assault at a young person's home – offender arrested.
- 07/09/2013. Common assault – person slapped on the face at Public House.
- 07/09/2013. Public order offence at young person's home.
- 11/09/2013. Damage or destroy offence at young person's home.
- 12/09/2013. Theft from motor vehicle at car park and picnic area in woods.

12. LEASE – BRICKENDON GREEN

The Clerk informed members that there was nothing to report on this matter. The Solicitors acting on behalf of the Parish Council were still awaiting a response from Longmore's Solicitor (acting for Mr Wallace).

13. NUTWOOD COTTAGE - UPDATE

Mr Dennis Downes expressed his appreciation to the Parish Council for its support in this matter and he gave members a resume of the events which had taken place since the last meeting, as follows:

- (i) Residents had been invited to a meeting on 20 August, which the HCC had arranged, together with Advanced Childcare. The HCC had cancelled the meeting at the last minute, which was most unprofessional.
- (ii) A disturbance had occurred on 27 August where one of the staff cars had blocked the lane due to a male resident taking the keys and running off with them.
- (iii) A disturbance had occurred on 11 September with a Police car blocking the lane opposite Woodlands with a male resident in the back and another Police vehicle outside Nutwood where a young female resident had been sitting on the drive.
- (iv) It had been gathered from a telephone conversation with Lesley Bagulay (Mark Prisk's assistant) that a response had been received from Kirby Colletti and the Parish Council should have sight of a copy of the response within the next few days.

14. RISK ASSESSMENT – FORMAL ADOPTION

Cllr Mrs Downes had produced a revised risk assessment for the Parish Council which had been previously circulated to members.

RESOLVED that the risk assessment be formally adopted.

15. BROXBOURNE AND BENCROFT WOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN
2014-2019

Members had been circulated with details of the above and they noted the contents therein.

16. FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2012/2013 – ANNUAL RETURN

The Clerk informed members that the Annual Return had been signed by the External Auditor with only two matters raised, viz:

- Omission of minute reference recording adoption of the Annual Return.
- Confirmation that the Parish Council did not act as trustee.

The Clerk confirmed that both the above items had been included on the Annual Return which met the External Auditor's requirements.

17. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as shown on the attached statement (see Appendix B) be duly authorised for payment.

(ii) Financial Statement

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached statement (see Appendix C) be received.

18. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Governance Review (January 2014 meeting).
- Confirmation of dates of meetings for 2014.
- Risk assessment – play equipment.

CONFIRMATION OF DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 28 November 2013, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.